

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of analyzing a data source that includes a plurality of household records, said method comprising:
determining that the data source is not a subset of a reference file;
in response to determining that the data source is not a subset of the reference file, retrieving, from a nonvolatile storage area, a sample quantity of household records included in the data source, wherein the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;
comparing each household record included in the sample quantity of household records to the reference file;
~~comparing the data source to a reference file;~~
determining, based upon the comparing, that the data source is not balanced, which signifies that the sample quantity of household records does not represent the data source;
~~whether the data source is balanced in response to the comparing;~~ and
adjusting, based upon determining that the data source is not balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that the adjusted sample quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source; ~~the data source based on the determining,~~ wherein the adjusting results in a ~~more balanced data source.~~
analyzing the data source using the adjusted sample quantity of household records; and
selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
~~matching one or more of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records records from the data source to one or more reference file records; generating a comparison master file based on the matching; and~~
assigning an index number to each record in the comparison master file.
3. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
retrieving a rule corresponding to an element in the data source;
determining whether the element in the data source approximates a corresponding value in the reference file based on the retrieved rule; and
assigning a match to the element in response to the determination.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
~~calculating a first bias value based upon matching one or more of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records records from the data source to one or more reference file records; and calculating a first bias value based upon the matching.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:
~~matching one or more records from a second data source to one or more reference file records;~~

calculating a second bias value based upon matching one or more household records from a second data source to one or more reference file records; and the matching; and wherein the selecting includes comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

identifying a first data source sample size;
~~comparing a first data source sample corresponding to the first data source sample size to the reference file;~~
determining a match percentage based on comparing each of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records to the reference file; ~~the comparing~~; and
calculating a new source file sample quantity ~~second data source sample size~~ by dividing the adjusted number of household records ~~first data source sample size~~ by the match percentage.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 6 further comprising:

identifying a second data source corresponding to the new source file sample quantity; and ~~second data source sample size~~;
~~matching one or more records from the second data source to one or more reference file records~~; and
calculating a second match percentage based on matching one or more records from the new source file sample quantity to one or more reference file records. ~~the matching~~.

8. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors;
a data source handling tool to manage a data source stored on one of the nonvolatile storage devices, the data source handling tool including:
means for determining that the data source is not a subset of a reference file;
in response to determining that the data source is not a subset of the reference file, means for retrieving, from one of the nonvolatile storage devices, a sample quantity of household records included in the data source, wherein the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;
means for comparing each household record included in the sample quantity of household records to the reference file;
~~means for comparing the data source to a reference file stored on one of the nonvolatile storage devices;~~
means for determining, based upon the comparing, that the data source is not balanced, which signifies that the sample quantity of household records does not represent the data source; whether the data source is balanced in response to the comparing; and
means for adjusting, based upon determining that the data source is not balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that the adjusted sample

quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source; the data source based on the determining, wherein the adjusting results in a more balanced data source.

means for analyzing the data source using the adjusted sample quantity of household records; and means for selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing.

9. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for matching one or more of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records from the data source to one or more reference file records;

means for generating a comparison master file based on the matching; and

means for assigning an index number to each record in the comparison master file.

10. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for retrieving a rule corresponding to an element in the data source from one of the nonvolatile storage devices;

means for determining whether the element in the data source approximates a corresponding value in the reference file based on the retrieved rule; and

means for assigning a match to the element in response to the determination.

11. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:
means for calculating a first bias value based upon matching one or more of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records.
~~means for matching one or more records from the data source to one or more reference file records; and~~
~~means for calculating a first bias value based upon the matching.~~
12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim [[8]] 11 further comprising:
means for calculating a second bias value based upon matching one or more household records from a second data source to one or more reference file records; and
wherein the selecting includes comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.
~~means for matching one or more records from a second data source to one or more reference file records;~~
~~means for calculating a second bias value based upon the matching; and~~
~~means for comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.~~
13. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:
~~means for identifying a first data source sample size;~~
~~means for comparing a first data source sample corresponding to the first data source sample size to the reference file;~~
~~means for determining a match percentage based on comparing each of the household records included in the adjusted~~

sample quantity of household records to the reference file;
and the comparing; and
means for calculating a new source file sample quantity
~~second data source sample size~~ by dividing the adjusted
~~number of household records first data source sample size~~
by the match percentage.

14. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:
means for identifying a second data source corresponding to the new source file sample quantity; and second data source sample size;
~~means for matching one or more records from the second data source to one or more reference file records; and~~
means for calculating a second match percentage based on matching one or more records from the new source file sample quantity to one or more reference file records. ~~the matching.~~
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer operable media, the computer operable media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method for selecting a data source vendor, the method comprising: in a computer operable media for managing a data source, said computer program product comprising:
determining that the data source is not a subset of a reference file;
in response to determining that the data source is not a subset of the reference file, retrieving a sample quantity of household records included in the data source, wherein

the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;
comparing each household record included in the sample quantity of household records to the reference file;
~~means for comparing the data source to a reference file;~~
means for determining, based upon the comparing, that the data source is not balanced, which signifies that the sample quantity of household records does not represent the data source; whether the data source is balanced in response to the comparing; and
means for adjusting, based upon determining that the data source is not balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that the adjusted sample quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source; the data source based on the determining, wherein the adjusting results in a more balanced data source.
analyzing the data source using the adjusted sample quantity of household records; and
selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises: further comprising:
~~means for matching one or more of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records records from the data source to one or more reference file records;~~
~~means for generating a comparison master file based on the matching; and~~

~~means for~~ assigning an index number to each record in the comparison master file.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises: further comprising:

~~means for~~ retrieving a rule corresponding to an element in the data source from the nonvolatile storage area;

~~means for~~ determining whether the element in the data source approximates a corresponding value in the reference file based on the retrieved rule; and

~~means for~~ assigning a match to the element in response to the determination.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises: further comprising:

calculating a first bias value based upon matching one or more of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records.

~~means for matching one or more records from the data source to one or more reference file records; and~~

~~means for calculating a first bias value based upon the matching.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product described in claim 15 18 wherein the method further comprises: further comprising:

calculating a second bias value based upon matching one or more household records from a second data source to one or more reference file records; and

wherein the selecting includes comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.

~~means for matching one or more records from a second data source to one or more reference file records;~~

~~means for calculating a second bias value based upon the matching; and~~

~~means for comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises: further comprising:

~~means for identifying a first data source sample size;~~

~~means for comparing a first data source sample~~

~~corresponding to the first data source sample size to the reference file;~~

~~means for determining a match percentage based on comparing each of the household records included in the adjusted sample quantity of household records to the reference file;~~

~~and the comparing; and~~

~~means for calculating a new source file sample quantity~~

~~second data source sample size by dividing the adjusted number of household records first data source sample size~~

~~by the match percentage.~~